

Brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area



E. T. Thorne

***A symposium for the discussion of the past, present, and future of
brucellosis in elk and bison in the Greater Yellowstone Area***

September 17-18, 2002

Snow King Resort

Jackson, Wyoming



Sponsored by

Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee



Hosted by

Wyoming Game and Fish Department



In September, 1994, the first national symposium on brucellosis in the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA) was held in Jackson, Wyoming. In 1995, the Governors of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho invited the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior to join them in a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Greater Yellowstone Interagency Brucellosis Committee (GYIBC). The GYIBC's goal is to protect and sustain the existing free-ranging elk and bison populations in the GYA and protect public interests and the economic viability of the livestock industry in the three states.

The GYIBC is comprised of representatives from all of the state and federal agencies that have jurisdictional authority over the animals and federal lands in the Greater Yellowstone Area, and includes: Wyoming Game and Fish Department; Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Idaho Department of Agriculture; Montana Department of Livestock; Wyoming Livestock Board; U.S. Department of Agriculture (Forest Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, and Agricultural Research Service); and U. S. Department of Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Geological Survey Biological Resources Division).

This interagency cooperative approach is seen as not just the best, but perhaps the only way to solve the problem of brucellosis in elk and bison in the GYA. For the first time, all affected state and federal agencies have formed a coalition bringing together their collective expertise to focus resources and find equitable solutions to the wildlife brucellosis problem.

The successful long-term management of bison, elk, and brucellosis in the GYA is a difficult and complex issue. Differing biological and economic interests and legal mandates influence it. Resolution of the problem depends upon all interested parties working together to develop and implement a management plan for elk, bison, and their habitat.

A great deal of research on brucellosis in the GYA has been conducted in the past eight years. The purpose of the 2002 symposium is to provide information about the work and progress that the members of the GYIBC and other government and academic institutions have made. The symposium is designed to be informative, rather than strictly scientific. Invited speakers have been urged not only to cover their particular areas of expertise, but to provide opinion and commentary on the issues as well.

Everyone - public or private citizen, scientist or non-scientist - is invited to attend. We believe that this symposium will bring everyone up-to-date on past accomplishments as well as present options on the ultimate resolution of brucellosis in elk and bison inhabiting the GYA.



Information

Venue

The symposium will be held at the Snow King Resort, 400 Snow King Avenue, Jackson, Wyoming. A block of rooms has been reserved for attendees. **Room reservations must be made directly with the resort.** Reservations can be made by calling 1-800-522-5464 or 307-733-5200. Reservations must be made no later than August 15, 2002. Jackson hosts many other fine motels. Call Becky Russell (307-322-5616) for alternative lodging suggestions.

Getting There

You can drive or fly to Jackson. The Snow King Resort operates courtesy shuttles from the Jackson Hole Airport. Rental cars are also available at the airport, but be advised to make car reservations early. Downtown Jackson can be reached from the Resort by walking (approx. 1 mile) or by taking a shuttle.

Entertainment and Recreation

Jackson offers many fine restaurants and unique shopping experiences. Golf, tennis, horseback riding, sight-seeing, fishing, hiking, and river rafting are just a few of the recreational opportunities. If you have time and a vehicle, consider touring Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks north of Jackson. Weather in September will be pleasant days with cool nights. Rain and even snow showers are possible.

Questions?

If you have questions about any aspect of the symposium or Jackson, please do not hesitate to contact either Becky Russell (307-766-5616; russell@uwyo.edu) or Terry Kreeger (307-322-2571; tekreege@wyoming.com).

Registration

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Early Registration (before June 1, 2002): \$75

Late Registration (after June 1, 2002): \$100

Make checks (or agency purchase orders) out to: *Wyoming Game and Fish Department*. Sorry, credit cards cannot be accepted. Registration can be made at the time of the symposium.

To register for the symposium, please fill out the above form (or copy) and mail with full payment (or purchase order) to:

Becky Russell
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Room 323, Biological Sciences Building
Box 3312, University Station
Laramie, WY 82201 USA

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